

# REPARATORY SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES

## Analysis of Shakespeare's Tragedy "Julius Caesar"

By THOMAS F. CLARK.

"**JULIUS CAESAR**" is like a vast continent, with four lofty peaks towering over fertile valleys. The four peaks are the speech of Caesar, the address of Brutus, Antony's oration, and the quarrel scene between Brutus and Cassius.

The speech of Caesar is an excellent example of description through conversation. To get Brutus to approve Caesar's death is his aim. Knowing that Brutus hates imperial power, he flatters him, then depreciates Caesar and suggests that there is danger in giving one man so much power as Caesar has. He poisons the mind of Brutus so that the latter thinks it his duty to release Rome from the tyranny of Caesar.

Not content with representing Caesar, Cassius after the second half of his talk flatters Brutus so cleverly that the latter believed that he was as great as Caesar. Cassius, knowing Brutus to be patriotic, cited the words of the elder Brutus, and lured the younger one to murder Caesar.

The result is that in this heart to heart talk with Brutus, Cassius paints a perfect picture of himself as an underhand man. He misrepresents Caesar as a weakling who could not swim the Tiber. He tries to flatter Brutus, and is so indifferent to him and wrong that he finds it easy to lie, to bribe and even to murder.

Cassius painted by himself, however, is not nearly so attractive as the Cassius painted by his servant and his friends. That he was capable of arousing respect, favor, esteem and confidence is clearly shown by the conversation of his servant and his friends. Pindarus, after he had held the sword for Cassius to run against, says:

"So, I am free; yet would not so have been, but I have done my will."

This is eloquent evidence of the esteem in which Cassius was held. Later his friend Titinius, finding that Cassius had passed away, killed himself through grief. Lastly, Brutus speaks volumes of the regard he had for Cassius when he says:

"The last of all Romans, fare thee well! It is impossible that ever Rome should breed thee more."

The speech of Brutus is a second peak that attracts our attention. Brutus, above all men in Rome, is honored for his nobility of character and the purity of his life. He has studied self-perfection. He is not a man who is content with the honor of his country. He is an enthusiastic lover of liberty, and he has the broadest conception of justice. Cassius lacks these qualities and seeks to have Brutus ratify his deed because he thinks that if Brutus justifies the murder of Caesar when it is done, all Rome will follow his example and ask no questions. In this speech we get a perfect picture of an idealist, who has more regard for abstract principles than for evident realities. This speech shows more than anything else how low honor was in the Roman nature. He is not a man who is fickle, unreasonable, impulsive, moody, and yet he talks to us as if they were philosophers like himself. He thinks that they have as high a regard for justice as he has. He accuses Caesar of being ambitious and for that reason he considers him an enemy to freedom. He has tears for Caesar's love. He has joy for Caesar's fortune. He has honor for Caesar's valor, but he cannot conceive of the man he was talking to would not also wish to be Roman. That any one could be so vile as not to love his country is beyond his conception. Therefore, he speaks to ordinary mortals and to menial workmen about freedom, manly independence and love of country with little effect. He does not understand that his auditors are servitors; that they are craving to bow down before some human idol, and that they are incapable of understanding his rage against the despotism of Caesar.

In addition he not only misjudges his audience, but he is entirely ignorant of Antony's character. So confident is he that his speech has settled in the hearts of his hearers that he fears nothing from the slanders, who is a mere child of Caesar.

The third peak, the one which towers above all others, is Antony's speech. This speech gives us only the oratorical side of Antony's character. We find him surrounded by enemies. Still he faces the angry mob and makes it do his will and we gladly turn from the imprudent Brutus to the practical Antony. It is interesting to watch him win the interest of the mob. Instead of talking about the ideas of liberty, patriotism and love of country, he makes an immediate appeal to the pocket book of "Caesar," he says, "hath brought many captives home to Rome, whose ransoms did the general coffers fill." In other words, he says that Caesar will hold college in war filled the treasury of Rome, gave Rome prosperity and gave themselves a full dinner pail.

He next shows the sympathetic side of Caesar. He tells them that when the poor cried, Caesar wept, and that an ambitious man would never be moved by the sufferings of the poor. Next, he declares that Caesar was not ambitious. He proves this by citing the fact that he offered Caesar the crown three times and that Caesar refused it each time.

His next appeal was to their curiosity. He tells them that Caesar left a will, but cleverly avoids reading it. How-

ever, he gets them very much interested when he says:

"Let but the commons hear this testament—Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read—And they would give and kiss dead Caesar's wounds, and dip their napkins in his sacred blood, And, dying, mention it within their wills, beseeching it as a rich legacy."

His fifth appeal is to their passions. After telling them that Caesar has made them his heir, he takes up Caesar's mantle, shows them how their friend had been stabbed, cut and hacked by these honorable men, and suggests revenge to such an extent that they are ready to seek, burn, fire, kill and slay the traitors.

His last appeal is to their gratitude. Not content with arousing them to drive the traitors from Rome, he declares himself to make certain that they will not be able to turn from their purpose; consequently he reads the will, and when

they find that Caesar has left them his walks, his private arbors and new planted orchards to walk abroad and recreate themselves, they regard the speech of Caesar as the riot which brings about the ruin of Brutus and Cassius.

The fourth peak is the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius at Sardis. There are two reasons for the quarrel. Cassius begins it by accusing Brutus of wronging him. Cassius states that Brutus has condemned Lucius Pella, the praetor, for taking bribes of the Sardians, even after he has written to Brutus in favor of Pella. Further, Cassius thinks that in war times such petty offenses as Pella's are about as much as a man should be allowed to do. Brutus replies that he is not punished. Brutus states that he is a better judge than Brutus about the terms of patronage. He even threatens Brutus. Brutus treats the threats with ridicule and then states that Cassius refused him certain sums of money that he desired for the payment of his troops. This grievance is the second cause of the quarrel. Cassius denies having sent a refusal, accuses Brutus of unkindness and declares himself weary of the world and willing to die.

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Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., opened with an enrollment of 1,590, of whom 460 were new students. Because of war conditions the college was able to care for a larger number of new students, the registration being practically the same as last year.

Wellesley is offering a number of war courses, which promise to be very popular. These are among the chief reasons why the school is working more vigorously than ever upon the Liberty Loan and upon Red Cross activities.

The enrollment for this year shows an increase of twenty-six over that at the beginning of last year, with a total of 144 students. The upper forms have had many accessions, due to the fact that the lower classes of the school are quite full.

To replace the masters who have entered the army and navy during the past year, the following new appointments have been made to the faculty: Physics and mathematics, Gilbert Tolman, formerly professor of physics at Colby College; French and Spanish, William Crockett, formerly instructor at the University of Buffalo; English and history, William Joseph Morgan; English and physical training, J. Wilson Murray, formerly of the Gilman School; lower school subjects, Gorham B. Munson, formerly of Ridgely School, and Mrs. Lydia E. MacKnight.

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REYNOLDS COLLEGE.

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## What Is Going On Within Academic Walls

MISS GLADYS E. JEWETT of Dorchester, Mass., led the midweek service of the Y. W. C. A. at Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. After the meeting Dean Ida J. Everett addressed the open cabinet. Her subject was "The Responsibility of the Individual to the Cabinet as a Whole."

The Rev. J. M. Findlay, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, will preach at the Wheaton College chapel to-morrow at 10 o'clock. His subject is "The Responsibility of the Individual to the Cabinet as a Whole."

A publicity campaign is about to be launched for the United War Work Council by the members of the Y. W. C. A. of Andover. The student body raised over \$2,500 in two weeks. It is felt that the interest of the girls will be even greater this year and that they will do equally as well.

RIVERDALE COUNTRY SCHOOL.

The war spirit has marked the opening of the new year of the Riverdale Country School, New York City. At the first exercises the headmaster, Frank H. Crockett, referred to the fact that during the summer Franklin D. Updike, one of the representatives of the sixty stars on the service flag, had given up his life for his country. The headmaster, who is a member of the Alumni Society, has been severely wounded, and that a third, Forbes Amory, reported among the missing since the latter part of June, has now been found in a hospital. He also announced that Lieut. Willard C. Hatch, formerly head of the Lower School, had led a company of the Marines at Cateau Thierry and had been gassed.

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Regarding the plan of battle against Antony and Octavius they differ. Cassius advises that they stay where they are and allow the enemy to seek them. Brutus will not listen to this, but insists that they push on to Philipp. Cassius, although he well knows that by these steps they will abandon all advantages of the position upon the higher grounds and fall into the hands of Antony, yields and then they part as brothers.

The quarrel scene paints for us the characters of the two men in glowing colors. Cassius, the selfish politician, will not allow right or wrong to interfere with his plan. Brutus, the idealist, we see armed so strong in honesty that the threats of Cassius pass him by as the idle wind which he does not respect. We like to hear him say:

"For I can raise no money by vile means! By heaven, I had rather coin my heart, And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash."

On the other hand the lines of a friend should bear his friend's infirmities. But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.

He gives us another glimpse of the agreeable side of Cassius's nature. In the valleys there are gems worth remembering. The lines when Brutus contemplates death are very effective:

"No, Cassius, no; think not, thou noble Roman, that I shall go to Rome. I have heard too great a mind. But this same day must I either work the idea of March upon thee, or I shall meet thee again. And whether we shall meet again I know not."

Therefore our everlasting farewell take! If we do not meet again, yet I shall smile; If not, we'll then this parting will make made.

Another jewel is when Brutus considers the state of his mind just before the murder of Caesar:

"Between the acting of a dreadful thing And the first motion, all the interim is like a phantasm, or a hideous dream. The Genius and the mortal instruments are then in council, and the state of man, like to a little kingdom, suffers then The nature of an insurrection."

Lastly Antony's tribute to Brutus is one that every pupil should know:

"This was the noblest Roman of them all; Did this in envy of Great Caesar? He only, in a general honest thought, common good to all, made one of them. His life was gentle, and the elements So mixed in him that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

SMITH COLLEGE.

NORTHAMPTON, Oct. 5.—The epidemic of Spanish influenza has made no serious inroads upon Smith College, but precautionary measures are being taken both by the college and by the town. The students have been requested to refrain from going into the town and to avoid all crowded public places. The Cooley-Dickinson Hospital in the town of Northampton has been somewhat taxed by conditions due to the epidemic, and the college has issued a letter asking students who have completed the Red Cross course in home nursing to volunteer as aids to nurses at the hospital. The length of enrollment will be for the duration of the epidemic and the hours of duty will not be more than two a day. It is expected that twelve or fourteen students will have the opportunity to do this very necessary relief work.

C. The work of the college chapter of the Red Cross has been resumed under the supervision of Miss Elizabeth Young Smith, 1907. The work at present will consist of the making of hospital and refugee garments, and the supply of each student is expected to give one hour or more a week to the work, which will be conducted on the factory plan.

Several members of the faculty are definitely engaged in war work this year. Prof. David Camp Rogers of the department of psychology is a Captain in the United States Army and is doing psychological work. Associate Professor John W. Locke of the department of history is in Washington, where he holds a commission as Captain in the Intelligence Bureau. Associate Professor Arthur W. Locke of the department of music is doing Y. M. C. A. work at Camp Devens. Assistant Professor Roy Dickinson Welch of the same department is in France engaged in civilian relief work under the United States War Relocation Administration. Miss Blanche Goode, instructor in music, expects to sail soon to join in Red Cross activities in France.

The program for the Smith College concert course for the year has been issued. The courses will be given on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. The evening course is composed of eight concerts, the afternoon course of six.

Some of our pupils are brilliant, some are below average, but all are making time. The teacher studies the "A School with an Atmosphere of Work."

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To replace the masters who have entered the army and navy during the past year, the following new appointments have been made to the faculty: Physics and mathematics, Gilbert Tolman, formerly professor of physics at Colby College; French and Spanish, William Crockett, formerly instructor at the University of Buffalo; English and history, William Joseph Morgan; English and physical training, J. Wilson Murray, formerly of the Gilman School; lower school subjects, Gorham B. Munson, formerly of Ridgely School, and Mrs. Lydia E. MacKnight.

During the summer the athletic field of the school was enlarged by the removal of the old gymnasium and by the filling in of over a thousand yards. To the delight of the boys it now affords a full length gridiron. Four new tennis courts have also been completed. A great deal of this work was accomplished by student help.

REYNOLDS COLLEGE.

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